

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 IGA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10 L-03 DHA-02
/095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. CULLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----052347Z 074722 /14

O 052302Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 075989

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 4 AND APRIL 5

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 4.

Q. PRESIDENT SADAT SAID THIS MORNING, WHEN HE ARRIVED
AT THE WHITE HOUSE, TO PRESIDENT CARTER, AND THIS IS A
QUOTE: "YOU CANNOT SUPPORT FOREIGN OCCUPATION OF ONE'S
LAND OR TOLERATE TERRITORIAL EXPANSION," AND MY QUESTION
IS, DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREE WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT THAT THE PRESIDENCY CAN'T DO THIS?

A. PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT CARTER ARE HAVING A SET
OF DISCUSSIONS ON A NUMBER OF ITEMS, AND I'M SURE THAT THE
ENTIRE QUESTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IS
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PROMINENT IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS. THEY MAY HAVE SOMETHING
TO SAY ON THIS WHEN THE DISCUSSIONS ARE OVER. I HAVE
NOTHING TO SAY.

Q. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY DISCUSSIONS SO FAR--ON AN EGYPTIAN
REQUEST TO BUY F-5'S FROM THE UNITED STATES?

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO PRIOR DISCUSSION ON THIS QUESTION. I

NOTE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID, SADAT HAS SAID THAT HE
INTENDS TO RAISE THE ISSUE, AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAS
RESPONDED THAT HE IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT, BUT THERE HAS
NOT BEEN ANY PRIOR DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES DISPOSED TO OPEN, AT THIS POINT,
A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT?

A. I THINK THAT THAT'S THE POINT OF THE DISCUSSIONS, TO
SEE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IS POSSIBLE, AND THAT IS WHAT THE
DISCUSSIONS ALSO ARE ABOUT.

Q. THERE IS A PRESS REPORT FROM ISRAEL THIS MORNING SAYING
THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS CONVEYED TO THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT THEIR STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH SALES TO

EGYPT. CAN YOU GIVE US ANYTHING ON THAT?

A. I'VE SEEN THE REPORT. I HAVE NOTHING ON IT.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHY THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR CAME HERE TODAY TO SEE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY?

A. I'M SORRY. I DON'T HAVE ANY READOUT ON THAT.

Q. HODDING, I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE RELUCTANT TO COMMENT ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH WHILE HE'S HERE CONFERRING WITH THE PRESIDENT; AND I'M NOT ASKING YOU UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR A COMMENT. I WILL ASK YOU FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

NOW, INSOFAR AS HIS STATEMENT THIS MORNING: "EGYPT, EVER SINCE ITS EMERGENCE AS A STATE MORE THAN 7,000 YEARS AGO HAS BEEN A LAND OF IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES WHOSE COMMON MEMORIAL -- THE EGYPTIANS REMAIN FAITHFUL TO HIGHER VALUES AND IDEALS WHICH RENDER HUMAN LIFE MORE REWARDING AND FULFILLING, HIS BELIEF IN THE DIVINE TRUTH, THE AFTERLIFE AND THE DAY OF JUDGMENT HAS INSTILLED IN HIM AN EXTRAORDINARY SENSE OF JUSTICE AND A GENUINE CONVICTION OF THE UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAN."

THAT WAS AT 10:30, AND I'M WONDERING IF YOU'VE HEARD FROM ANY RABBIS WHO ARE CELEBRATING PASSOVER ON THIS. I DON'T WANT A COMMENT. I JUST WANT TO KNOW: HAVE YOU HEARD FROM ANY OF SIX MILLION AMERICAN JEWS WHO ARE OBSERVING PASS-

OVER? AND I JUST WONDER IF YOU HAVE ANY REACTION.

A. LES, I KNOW OF NO REACTION.

2. NOW FOLLOWS EXCERPTS FROM APRIL 5 PRESS BRIEFING.

SPOKESMAN: GENTLEMEN, I HAVE ONE THING WHICH IS A RESULT OF CLOSE READING OF MR. GROMYKO'S LENGTHY STATEMENT AND OTHER STATEMENTS THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER; AND I MUST SAY TO YOU THAT I CAN FIND NO DIRECT REFERENCE IN ANY OF IT TO THE QUESTION OF MR. GROMYKO DISCUSSING WITH MR. VANCE SALT MATTERS.

I WILL SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF TEXT IN THE GROMYKO STATEMENT WHICH GOES TO THAT END, SUGGESTING THAT THEY ARE READY TO TALK ON THESE PROBLEMS -- AS MR. GROMYKO REFERRED TO THEM -- FOLLOWING A LONG SECTION ON THE PROBLEM OF SALT.

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AND HE HAS FURTHER SAID THAT AT THE PRELIMINARY MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHICH HE DID ANNOUNCE, IN GENEVA, THAT THEY WILL HAVE PLENTY TO TALK ABOUT.

BUY BEYOND THAT, GOING TO THE QUESTION THAT I THINK HENRY BRADSHER RAISED YESTERDAY, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT WE HAVE THE STRONGEST KIND OF ASSURANCE, THROUGH PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION OFFICIALS, THAT SALT WILL BE, IN FACT, AS WE HAVE ANNOUNCED IT WILL BE, A MAJOR ITEM ALONG WITH THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER MATTERS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE GROMYKO-VANCE DISCUSSIONS.

Q. HODDING, TO YOU HAVE YET, WHEN THAT WILL TAKE PLACE -- EITHER BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER THE SUMMIT?

A. I DO NOT YET HAVE A TIME ON THAT. I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU AS SOON AS I GET IT.

Q. HODDING, MR. GROMYKO SPOKE IN HIS REMARKS OF "TENTATIVE" AGREEMENT FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. IS IT FIXED DEFINITELY, OR IS IT JUST TENTATIVE?

A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WILL DEFINITELY BE A MEETING. HE SAID: "WE HAVE A PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT A

MEETING." THOSE WERE THE WORDS HE USED.

Q. HODDING, AS YOU UNDERSTAND IT, WILL THIS MEETING FOCUS MOSTLY ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AS WAS INDICATED EARLIER, OR SHARE EQUAL TIME WITH SALT, OR WILL SALT BE THE PREDOMINANT SUBJECT FROM THE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW?

A. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO, YOU KNOW, BALANCE THIS OFF IN TERMS OF WHAT WILL BE MAJOR ITEMS. I WILL JUST SIMPLY SAY THAT SALT IS A MAJOR ITEM ON OUR NATIONS' MUTUAL UNCLASSIFIED

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AGENDA AND THAT IT WILL BE FEATURED PROMINENTLY; AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER MATTERS, AS MR. GROMYKO PUT IT AND AS WE HAVE SAID, AS THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE SAID, WILL BE DISCUSSED.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW LONG THE MEETING WILL LAST -- HOW MANY DAYS?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q. IS IT A MATTER OF DAYS -- OF ONE DAY, OR --

A. I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT: PATRICIA DERIAN, ON THE HILL, SAID TODAY THAT LINKING HUMAN RIGHTS WITH AID AND MAKING PUBLIC DENUNCIATIONS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A NEGATIVE APPROACH. IS THIS A CHANGE OF POLICY?

A. I'M SORRY -- WHO SAID THAT? PATRICIA DERIAN?

Q. YES.

A. I DON'T HAVE THAT STATEMENT IN FRONT OF ME. THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT UNDERGOING ANY CHANGE THAT I KNOW OF.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE THAT THE PLO HAS DEMONSTRATED A MODERATION WHICH ENTITLES THEM TO BE PART OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE? AND IF SO, WHAT?

A. IF YOU ARE QUOTING FROM PRESIDENT SADAT --

Q. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, BECAUSE I JUST AM ASKING QUESTIONS. I DIDN'T SAY WHOM I AM QUOTING.
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A. I UNDERSTAND. BUT IN ANY CASE, GOING TO THE HEART OF

YOUR QUESTION, THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE NOW UNDERWAY BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT CARTER AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN BOTH GOVERNMENTS WILL PROBABLY RESULT IN SOME STATEMENTS AT THE END OF THE MEETINGS; AND I THINK THEY WILL SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW IS: NOT WHAT SADAT'S POSITION IS, BUT WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION? DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE -- DID IT BELIEVE BEFORE YESTERDAY -- DID IT BELIEVE THAT THE PLOS HAVE DEMONSTRATED ANY MODERATION?

A. WE HAVE SPOKEN A NUMBER OF TIMES ON THE PUBLIC RECORD ON THE QUESTION OF THE FRAMEWORK THAT IS NECESSARY FOR A MIDDLE EASTERN SETTLEMENT. I REALLY AM NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. RIGHT.
THERE HAS BEEN NO BASIC CHANGE THEN, ON WHAT YOU HAVE SAID?

A. THE STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE REPRESENT THE POLICY OF THE COUNTRY ON THAT SUBJECT.

Q. COULD YOU GET FOR US, IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT NOW, WHAT IS THE LATEST U.S. POSITION ON --

FIRST, PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA -- WHAT IS REQUIRED?

AND SECOND: WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO DEAL WITH AND RECOGNIZE THE PLO?

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THERE HAVE BEEN POSITIONS IN THE PAST THAT HAVE BEEN STATED, INCLUDING THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE. COULD YOU TELL US WHAT ANSWERS ARE VALID NOW, IN ANSWER TO THOSE TWO QUESTIONS?

A. I WILL BE GLAD TO GO BACK AND GET OUT THE RELEVANT STATEMENTS. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE THAT I KNOW OF, AS OF THIS BRIEFING, WHATSOEVER IN WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS -- WHEN HE WAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WHEN HE CAME BACK -- OR WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID.

BUT IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE LAST FORMULATION I CAN CERTAINLY PULL IT OUT --

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. IT JUST SO HAPPENS. WE HAVE SEEN THE PRESS REPORTS ON RENEWED FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THEM. I MIGHT ADD, WE CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION IN THE AREA VERY CLOSELY. OUR POLICY THERE REMAINS THE SAME AS IT HAS BEEN, FOR SOME TIME.

Q. HAS PRESIDENT SADAT OFFICIALLY REQUESTED F-5 PLANES?

A, I HAVE NOTHING ON OFFICIAL REQUEST. I THINK I WOULD REPEAT WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY: THAT HE HAD ANNOUNCED HE WAS GOING TO RAISE THAT ISSUE AND THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS IT IF IT WERE RAISED. I BELIEVE THE WHITE HOUSE WILL HAVE SOMETHING ON THIS THIS AFTERNOON -- ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF THEIR DISCUSSION -- AT A PRESS BRIEFING AT 2:00 O'CLOCK.

VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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